

## RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

---

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes  
April 11-13, 2005  
WDA Conference Room, Cheyenne

Members Present: Helen Jones, Vice President  
Gene Hardy  
Spencer Ellis  
Lee Otto  
Meghan Lally  
Jim Mickelson  
David Graham  
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture  
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

Youth Leadership Advisory: Leif Udem  
David Largent  
Emily Horton

Members Absent: Ryan Ells  
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

WDA Staff Present: Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director  
Muff Parker, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jones 8:00 a.m. on April 11, 2005.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Ellis made a motion to approve the February 14, 2005 minutes with a correction of Ryan Ells as present and President Todd opened the meeting at 8 a.m. and adjourned the meeting at 1 p.m.. Seconded by Otto. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Amendments to the State Designated Pest List**

Slade explained the purpose of the upcoming hearing. He has a resolution signed by the Weed and Pest Council to remove the Mountain Pine Beetle from the Designated Weed and Pest List. That list is a state-wide list and is approved by both the Council and the Board. The Declared list is specific to each county and is also approved by both. It is the responsibility of the county to run a program if the weed or pest is listed on the Designated List. Johnson County is the one who wants it removed.

### **Introduction of Members**

Helen asked each member to introduce themselves and explain why they wanted to serve on the Board.

Meeting recessed at 8:30 and the hearing was opened. Rod Litzel testified as to why Johnson County wanted the Mountain Pine Beetle removed from the Designated Weed and Pest List. Their Board felt they were unable to financially assist the residents because of the number of requests due to the large numbers of beetles. That county is also facing a lawsuit by an individual. Hearing closed at 9:01 a.m.

Meeting reconvened.

### **Discussion on the removal of the Mountain Pine Beetle to the Designated List**

**Lee Otto moved to have it remain on the list with Graham seconding. The motion was withdrawn. Otto made a motion to have the Mountain Pine Beetle removed from the Designated Weed and Pest List. Seconded by Hardy. In a three to four vote, the motion was denied.** Since the Joint Resolution signed and presented by the Weed and Pest Council could not be signed, Slade Franklin was going to check with the Attorney General to have him clarify its status.

### **Orientation**

Each Section of the Department gave an overview of their responsibilities and programs for the new members. John Etchepare talked about the upcoming Joint Agriculture Committee meeting, wild horses and the fall meeting of the Sage Grouse Working Groups. Julie Cook gave an overview of the travel and reimbursement policies. Dean Finkinbinder review the Consumer Health Services role and responsibilities. Jim Schwartz visited about the Strategic Plan for Wyoming Agriculture. Frank Galey visited about the Governor's Brucellosis Committee and their recommendations to the Governor. One of the outcomes was to do an experimental closure of one feed ground. He also thanked muff and John for their help in making these meetings happen. He also invited everyone to come to Laramie on August 16 - 18 for the National Brucellosis Workshop.

Helen asked the members to talk about their interests. Meghan said wild horses, predator control, and federal agencies. Leif was interested in predator management. David Graham's interests are predators, surface water, and solar pumps. Jim Mickelson is interested in sage grouse and brucellosis. Lee Otto's interests are with diversified energy generation. Emily Horton would like to be involved with the strategic plan, encouraging young ag producers, ag education, and the marketing of Wyoming's ag products. Spencer Ellis is interested in federal lands, youth in agriculture, and the marketing of Wyoming's ag products. Ryan Ellis' interests are smoke management, seed regulations, and surface water. Helen Jones is interested in every aspect of agriculture.

### **Public Comments**

Leo Tsimbinos visited with the Board on FFA and 4-H issues, the reduction of fees, and moving the date for State Fair. He presented a written statement to the President.

Gene Hardy commented on the tail docking rule. He feels the rule needs to be enforced state-wide. He said he understands it's challenging to educate the counties, and knows how hard Bryce Reece and Barney Cosner have worked to do the education.

Meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

On April 12 the meeting was called to order by Vice President Jones.

Spencer Ellis updated the Board on the Seed Lab explaining the number of samples continues to increase as well as the species they are testing. John Etchepare told the Board about asking for the legislature for additional funding in the amount of \$110,000 for a building for bean samples.

Ryan Ells talked about his experience in North Carolina with the Farm Bureau.

### **Orientation - continued**

Grant Stumbough explained some of the programs in the Natural Resource Section and some of the issues they are currently working on.

Ken Nelson gave the Board some ethics training and an overview of the Open Meetings Act. There were a few changes in the Act during the last legislative session and he indicated they should have some new guidelines available in July. Ken also gave the Board some clarification on the Joint Resolutions status. He indicated that without the approval by both boards, the Joint Resolution meant nothing.

Karen Everett told the Board about the upcoming employee video conference scheduled for June 27 and invited each member to join the department at a sight near them.

### **Election of President and Vice President**

**Otto made a motion to suspend the rules and change the agenda. Graham seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

**Ellis nominated Helen Jones for President. With no other nominations being heard, Hardy made a motion to close nominations and a unanimous ballot be cast for Helen Jones. Seconded by Otto. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

**Otto nominated Spencer Ellis for Vice President. With no other nominations being heard, Hardy made a motion to close nominations and a unanimous ballot be cast for Spencer Ellis. Seconded by Graham. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Updates**

John said that agriculture received an exemption on the burning regulations, although notice needs to be given to the fire and sheriff's offices before the burning.

Jim updated the group on the Pole Cat Bench. There is currently research being done to see if the water project north of Powell is feasible.

John updated them on the proposed agenda for the Joint ag Committee meeting scheduled for April 25 and 26.

### **Cheatgrass Amendment**

The Wyoming Crop Improvement Association sent a letter requesting that cheatgrass be added to the Restricted Noxious Weed section of the Wyoming Seed Law limiting its presence in seed sold in the state to a maximum of 1,250 seeds per pound. During the ongoing discussion it was discovered that the rule could not be amended to reflect the new tolerance. That would require a change in the law. John suggested a rule change to allow for the change until the law could be changed. **Hardy made a motion to have the Department promulgate emergency rules to limit the tolerance of Downy Brome (*Bromus Tectorum*) to 1,250 seeds per pound with the understanding the Department will report back to the Board if it's not possible for a rule change. Otto seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Orientation - continued**

Barney Cosner gave an overview of the State Fair in Douglas.

Ken McMillan updated the Board on the Lubricity Standards. He said the June 1 deadline shouldn't be a problem. He followed with information on what the Analytical Lab does and a little about his staff.

**Ellis made a motion to amend the agenda to begin at 8 a.m. tomorrow. Mickelson seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Public Comment**

Leo Tsimbinos disputed some of the comments Barney made earlier.

Meeting was adjourned.

Meeting was called to order by President Jones at 8:15 on April 13.

Liaison assignments were postponed to allow members some time to decide which boards/commissions they were interested in serving.

The membership decided it would be good to have bi-monthly conference calls to allow more time to become familiar with the issues so they could concentrate on making decisions at the regular meetings. Meetings will be the first and third Wednesday's at 8 a.m.

The members discussed the issues in which they are interested and agreed to provide information to the other members as needed.

#### **4-H/FFA**

The Board discussed the suggestion by John regarding having one representative from the state FFA and 4-H to be appointed to the State Fair Advisory Board. Emily felt it would be very time consuming during the state fair week and may not be feasible for students. It would also be very controversial and may not be a good experience for students. The concluded it would be good to invite the 4-H and FFA members to attend the first meeting of the State Fair Advisory Board meeting to give ideas on improvements that can be made to the fair for next year.

Jim Schwartz would like to have the members include in their liaison assignments, the Wheat Marketing Commission and the Crop Improvement Association.

The members discussed the changes they would like to see in the law regarding the pay for the Board and decided to go with \$100 per day from the current \$10 per day. They also decided the change the language to make the youth advisory board statutory which would allow for them to vote. They would like to change current term of 4 years to 6-year terms with the political split remaining as it is.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Helen Jones, President

---

Date